

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CRITICAL STEP FORWARD FOR HMO PATIENTS' RIGHTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the United States Supreme Court will soon hear a case that will have far reaching consequences for millions of health maintenance organization patients. The justices will review an Illinois case about whether patients can sue HMO plans that give doctors bonuses to keep treatment costs down. The issue that the Supreme Court will examine is whether patients can sue HMOs, under federal law, for making medical decisions based on the bottom line.

Millions of Americans already believe that HMOs that limit medical treatment to cut costs and increase profits should be held accountable in a court of law. That is why the Supreme Court decision to review this case is so critical.

That is why it is also vital for Congress to pass meaningful and necessary patient protections that will help give millions of Americans the tools they need to end HMO abuses and hold HMOs accountable.

I wish to attach an article from today's Chicago Sun-Times about the upcoming Supreme Court case.

[From the Chicago Sun Times, Sept. 29, 1999]

COURT TO HEAR HMO BONUSES CASE

(By Lyle Denniston)

WASHINGTON.—The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to decide whether it is legal for doctors to cut back on treatment to save money for a health maintenance organization.

The outcome of a case from Illinois may go far to determine how much protection federal law will offer Americans in the face of cost-cutting efforts by managed care plans.

In the case, a federal appeals court ruled that it is illegal under federal law for doctors who make treatment decisions for patients of a medical benefits plan to get bonuses for saving the plan money by providing less expensive care.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Chicago, decided last year that those who make the key decisions for a benefits plan must do so only to further the interests of the patients.

Anyone in the plan management, including doctors who determine the nature and duration of treatment, is obliged to protect the fund's assets for the patients' benefit, the appeals court said.

The appeals court said it feared that managing care has been replaced by managing costs.

A Downstate Bloomington doctor and her HMO employer took the dispute to the Supreme Court, calling the appeals court ruling "dangerous and disruptive to health care providers and the nation's overall system of health care delivery."

This controversy, the doctor and the HMO contended, "is of profound national importance. Most contemporary welfare benefit plans provide for managed care, through HMOs or other devices." The appeals court

ruling, they argued, makes the main type of organization now used for medical care unlawful.

The case arose after a patient, Cynthia Herdrich, went to see the Bloomington doctor for an abdominal pain. In her 1992 lawsuit against Carle Clinic Association, Herdrich contended that the doctor found a small inflamed mass in the abdomen and directed treatment to be done eight days later at an HMO-owned facility 50 miles away rather than at a Bloomington hospital.

During the eight-day wait, the patient claimed, her appendix ruptured. She said this added further to the HMO's costs, so she sued the doctor to recover for the plan the expenses of her added care. Her claim was dismissed in federal court but was reinstated during appeal.

TRIBUTE TO DON KING

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's greatest boxing promoters, Mr. Don King.

Born on August 20, 1931, and raised in the Cleveland housing projects by his mother Hattie, Don beat the odds to become a very successful promoter. His shocking hair style, infectious smile, booming laugh, inimitable vocabulary and his catch phrase "Only in America!" have made Don King universally recognizable.

King's career as a promoter spans three decades and includes more than 500 world championship fights, but it began with a plea to help save a Cleveland hospital. Facing a severe shortage of funds, Forest City Hospital was prepared to shut down. King knew the hospital was vital to poor and working class people. He sought out heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali and asked him to support a benefit to raise money for the hospital. The two men hit it off and the hospital was saved.

Mr. Speaker, Don's promotions have entertained billions around the globe. His life has been devoted to staging the best in world championship boxing, as well as giving back to the people. Don King promotes events that have given the sports and entertainment world some of their most thrilling and memorable moments and have advanced the careers of many African-American and Puerto Rican fighters.

In 1974 King promoted one of history's biggest fights in the former Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo). Dubbed "The Rumble in the Jungle," the fight featured Muhammad Ali against George Foreman. The first major black promoter, King controlled the heavyweight title from 1978-90 while Larry Holmes and Mike Tyson were champions. He regained control of the heavyweight title in 1994 with wins by Oliver McCall (WBC) and Bruce Seldon (WBA). Other fighters he promoted include Roberto Duran, Julio Cesar

Chavez and of course the new WBC welterweight champion, Mr. Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

King's tireless and continuous philanthropic efforts are rarely chronicled, but as he says, "if you do something just to get noticed, then it is not a truly charitable gesture." He established the Don King Foundation, and through it has donated millions of dollars to worthy causes and organizations. As a reminder of the economic hardship he endured growing up, King has gone into neighborhoods every holiday season and personally handed out turkeys to needy families. Don's "Turkey Tour" has given away hundreds of thousands of turkey dinners over the years in cities across the country during the holiday season.

Inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1997, King was the only boxing promoter named to Sports Illustrated's list of the "40 Most Influential Sports Figures of the Past 40 Years." The New York Times published a list that included Don King among 100 African-Americans who have helped shape this country's history during the last century. The honors and awards he has been given are almost beyond counting.

Don King is married to Henrietta and they have two sons, Carl and Eric, a daughter, Debbie, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to America's greatest boxing promoter, Mr. Don King.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF SAMARITAN HOUSE—TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO SAN MATEO COUNTY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing heart-felt appreciation to Samaritan House of San Mateo County. As this outstanding nonprofit organization celebrates twenty-five years of service, I want to congratulate and commend Samaritan House and its leaders for distinguished service to San Mateo County.

The Samaritan House has dedicated its energies and efforts to meeting the needs of low-income residents of central San Mateo County. The organization has provided help to over 15,000 individuals each year, and it has made a great contribution to the improvement of our community. The goal of this organization is to provide immediate assistance to those in urgent need, while helping them on the road back to self-sufficiency. This is a truly praiseworthy effort, which has required countless hours of service and dedication from individuals and groups within the community under the leadership of Samaritan House.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of Samaritan House to assist the disadvantaged began in 1974 and have steadily grown each year since. The

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

organization now provides meals five days a week from two different sites. It also maintains a food pantry which distributes over 325 food boxes each month to area families. Medical attention and emergency shelters are also made available by the group. The Samaritan House offers free tutoring and legal services, as well as clothing and furniture. This type of service, which is urgently needed in our community, has been generously provided by the Samaritan House.

Over 1,200 volunteers work with Samaritan House, and these generous people share their means and contribute their time and effort to assist those in need. They promote self-sufficiency and preserve the dignity and worth of those they help. It is my desire that my Colleagues in the Congress not only pay tribute to Samaritan House but that—in recognition of the quarter century of humanitarian achievement of Samaritan House—we renew our own personal commitment to assist those who are in need.

Mr. Speaker, Samaritan House is an inspiring organization. It has helped people who are in need not only with immediate care and the necessities of life, but it has also helped to provide longer-term help so that people are able to stabilize their lives and move on to self-sufficiency. I am extremely grateful for the caring men, women, and children who have dedicated time and energy to this endeavor. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation and congratulating Samaritan House on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

HONORING WILLIAM E. CHALTRAW

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William E. Chaltraw for his commitment to the Fresno community and his dedication for his countless hours of volunteer work.

William E. Chaltraw, owner of Chaltraw & Associates, has 23 years of experience as a certified public accountant. His associates include his daughter Kristen, also a certified public accountant, and his wife Agnes, office manager of the family-owned business.

Chaltraw moved to Fresno with his parental family in 1963 from Detroit, Mich. He later graduated summa cum laude from CSUF in 1976 and spent most of his years as a partner at Deloitte & Touche before hanging out a shingle bearing his family name. He also taught individual, partnership and corporate taxation at his alma mater for more than four years.

Chaltraw is a man who seems to consistently take on additional responsibilities. Right now, he is the chairman of Community Medical Foundation's board of trustees and a member of Community Medical Center's corporate affairs committee. As chairman, Chaltraw's duties include overseeing the board's activities, meeting with corporate officers and volunteers and directing the goals the foundation has set.

Community certainly isn't Chaltraw first experience with nonprofit organizations. His experience includes serving as president of the Fresno Metropolitan Rotary Club, past presi-

dent of the Rotary Storyland/Playland board of trustees, and chairman of the taxation committee for the Fresno chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants. He also serves as treasurer for the Bulldog foundation and set to be president of the foundation in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor William E. Chaltraw for his extraordinary leadership among local business and community activities. He has provided Fresno community with many years of outstanding commitment and handwork. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Chaltraw many more years of continued success.

NATIONAL MONUMENT NEPA COMPLIANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to Congress, I have been focusing on the issue of livable communities and how we can create better partnerships between the Federal Government, State and local governments and our citizens. As amended this bill will increase input from local communities while preserving important national landmarks.

The 1906 Antiquities Act has served our nation well for almost a century. It has led to the preservation of the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Grand Teton National Parks. These sites have great environmental importance, they add to our nation's heritage, and through tourism they are an important part of local economies. This legislation would ensure that the President continues to have the authority to designate monuments, while giving communities a larger voice in the process. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1487, the Public Participation in the Declaration of National Monuments Act.

HONORING EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORICAL PARK

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the people and the spirit behind efforts to restore and maintain San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park in the 25th Congressional District. This weekend I will have the honor to join members of the Harris County State Legislative Delegation and other members of the Texas Legislature, including the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives James E. "Pete" Laney as they tour the battleground site including a boat ride down Buffalo Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel to its confluence with the San Jacinto River where the Battle of San Jacinto took place on April 21, 1836. This site, now State Park and monument along with the San Jacinto Museum of History, is where the Army of the Republic of

Texas, under the command of General Sam Houston, surprised and overwhelmed the Mexican Army and forced the surrender by its General Santa Anna leading to the establishment of the Republic of Texas and, nine years later, its entry into the United States.

In Texas, we believe in honoring our ancestors and preserving history for future generations. That's why the old-fashioned boat ride and picnic symbolizes more than a pleasant outing. It is a reenactment of boat trips from a century ago, when the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas hosted trips in the 1980s to attempt to persuade State Legislators to purchase and preserve land around the Battleground.

The Battleground and surrounding land, now totaling more than 1000 acres, has long been considered a historical treasure by Texas residents, and was dedicated as a State Park in 1907, eventually receiving designation as a National Historic Landmark. In 1939, work was completed on the towering 567-foot San Jacinto Monument. Designated as a National Engineering Landmark, the Monument rises 12 feet higher than the Washington Monument and is the world's tallest monument column. The Museum which is housed in the base of the Monument opened in 1939 and holds hundreds of thousands of artifacts relating to Texas as a part of Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and early Statehood. Operating in a public/private partnership, the Park is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and the San Jacinto Museum of History, a nonprofit educational organization, operates the Museum.

The goal of the individuals currently working to preserve San Jacinto State Park, the Battleground, the Monument, and the Museum is just as compelling and challenging today as it was a hundred years ago. This weekend the Trustees of San Jacinto State Park and Museum will do more than launch a boat trip; they will launch the beginning of the effort to return much of the Battleground to its natural appearance at the time of the 1836 battle and to transform the site into a world-class interpretive center and museum. The New Master Plan for the San Jacinto Battleground State Park, which will be outlined for the public and legislators, will eliminate some of the modern additions to the site that lessen the impact of experience for the 1.5 million people who visit the site annually. Restoring the site to its original and natural state will serve to create a better understanding of the sacrifices of those who fought there and the extraordinary historical significance of the battle itself.

Today it is very difficult for visitors to traverse the site and understand the Battle because of so many changes to the Battleground. Since its original designation as a Park, the Battleground has been partially obscured by buildings and monuments; by disposition of dredging soil; by landscaping; by construction of roads, picnic pads and other structures; and by subsidence ranging from eight to ten feet. Interpretation of the Battle is further complicated by the presence of the Battleship of Texas and its parking and support facilities. The main goals of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park Master Plan is to give primary emphasis to the Battle and its physical setting in order to enhance interpretation and the visitor experience. After all, the site's national significance

is due to the 1836 Battle, and to the extent feasible, the Master Plan focuses on returning the Battleground to its 1836 condition of prairie, marshes and trees so that visitors can visualize and understand the terrain and its influence on the tactics and outcome of the Battle.

A hundred years after the Daughters of the Republic of Texas saw fit to lobby the Legislature, forward-thinking individuals with vision and heart who want to preserve historically significant Texas for our children and grandchildren are again springing into action. Great Texans such as the Trustees and officials of the San Jacinto Museum of History, including Paul Gervais Bell, William P. Conner, and J.C. Martin; the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, including Marian Beckham and Jan de Vault; Representatives for the Harris County Delegation, including Rep. Jessica Farrar and Rep. John Davis, and just some of the people who are once again taking up the cause of Texas history and culture. Also, Sam Houston IV, the great-grandson of General Sam Houston will be present along with Andrew Sansom, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

As a fifth generation Texan I am especially proud that my family has been actively involved in the preservation of battleground and museum. My grandfather, the late Col. William B. Bates, was one of the five founding Trustees of the San Jacinto Museum of History when it was organized in 1938. He was instrumental in helping to establish and maintain the museum's operations and its historically significant collection of Texana and Western Americana. I maintain many volumes of Texas history from his personal library. That enduring love for preserving history and heritage lives on with my mother, Mary Bates Bentsen, who currently serves as a Trustee of the Museum.

In an area now known for petro-chemical production and the activity associated with one of the world's busiest seaports, one can still look out from the battleground site and see the Lynchburg Ferry which ran at the time of the battle and does so today. In his farewell to his troops delivered May 5, 1836, General Houston said of his forces, "Your valor and heroism have proved unrivaled . . . You have countered the odds of two to one and borne yourselves in the onset and conflict of battle in a manner unknown in the manners of modern warfare. (When liberty is firmly established by your patience and your valor, it will be fame enough to say, "I was a member of the Army of San Jacinto.")"

Mr. Speaker, we Texans believe the Battle of San Jacinto was a defining moment in our history which must be preserved for generations to come. I congratulate the San Jacinto Museum of History's Trustees, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and other friends of the Park for continuing the fight to preserve our historical places and culture. All of Harris County, the entire state of Texas, and our future generations are the richer for their noble efforts.

TRAGEDY IN EAST TIMOR

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 4, 1999, U.N. officials announced the

results of a U.N.-sponsored referendum of voters in East Timor. 78.5 percent of the voters rejected an Indonesian government plan for East Timor to receive a special autonomy arrangement within Indonesia. This result, which effectively called for independence, sparked a rampage of killings and other acts of terror by East Timorese paramilitary groups supported by the Indonesian Army.

One of my constituents, Mr. Michael Rhoades of Chicago, went to East Timor to serve as a United Nations accredited observer of the August 30 referendum. He participated with the International Federation for East Timor (IFET) Observer Project as a photo-journalist. I submit a copy of a recent letter from Mr. Rhoades dated September 25, 1999. He was an eyewitness to the horrors that took place in East Timor.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2809. This bill will impose an immediate suspension of assistance to Indonesia until the results of the August 30, 1999, vote in East Timor have been implemented.

I send this letter out of desperation, writing from Australia where I've been for a few weeks courtesy of an Australian Air Force evacuation flight from Dili, East Timor. Two weeks ago I flew from Darwin (our evac destination) to Sydney, sitting frustrated and sad now as I wait to fly back into Timor. It is difficult to write this because there is so much to say, because these have been some of the most heartbreaking weeks of my life, feeling absolutely powerless as politicians bow and curtsy through shallow condemnations of the Indonesian massacre in East Timor.

I was in East Timor as an election/human rights observer with the International Federation for East Timor's observer project (IFET-OP). We were (I add proudly) the largest observer group in Timor, at one time numbering almost 150 participants with small teams dispersed in villages and cities throughout the country. Our mandate was to document human rights abuses and election rule violations during the August 30 popular consultation, as well as the periods immediately preceding and following.

During my stay in Timor I saw time and again the blurring between ranks of military, police, and militia personnel. I heard stories from refugees sheltering in churches who'd been told that if the vote was for independence their village would be slaughtered. I heard soldiers scream to a family cowering behind the front wall of their home that they'd be back to kill them in the night. I helped try to save a young man (younger than me) dying from machete wounds, ghost-walking bleeding from his shoulder, arms, and gut—bone and intestines pressing through split flesh.

I saw this younger-than-me man wrapped in soaked-through bloody sheets as we helped him into our truck. He remained absolutely silent while his sister and father screamed his pain and part of our team sped him off to the only medical clinic still functioning in Dili. I saw him (in-head) as we dodged military and militia patrols trying to get (quick and nonchalant) back home. I see him as I write this letter, I see him as I remember hearing that he was dead.

I see this younger-than-me man as Indonesia stalls for time and our leaders huff and sigh for the cameras and their respective constituencies. I see this dead boy, and my friends left behind in East Timor.

I fear (am terrified) for the life of Gaspar da Costa whose house we rented in the mountain village of Maubisse, and who went behind that house to quietly cry while we went

inside to hurriedly pack after telling him we were evacuating, leaving his town for the "safety" of Dili; "and what happens to my family?" he asked as we swapped our integrity for our skins. And I snapped pictures of Gaspar and his brothers and wife and daughters to document in advance the barbarism of the Indonesian government, preferring to photograph the da Costas while still alive, hugging Gaspar with everything in me when we left, feeling (though not wanting to believe) that I was hugging a dead man.

And through the cacophony of U.N. sabre rattling I hear Father Mateus, the priest of Maubisse, who assured me that he was not a hero but who absolutely was. And though the East Timorese soil is wet with the blood of thousands far braver than me, I am particularly in awe of Father Mateus who sheltered refugees in his church and who stood up to the local police and militia heads, saying boldly that he did not trust them because he had been shown time after time that he could not trust them. The last I heard of Father Mateus, his name was at the top of the local militia deathlist. Selfless to the point of bullheadedness Father Mateus declared that there had not yet been a priest martyred for East Timor (because at the time there had not been) and he was prepared to be the first.

I remember the horror in the Maubisse polling center the afternoon of the vote when certain militia members and military officers had whispered to the local Timorese polling staff that they'd kill them all in their homes that night. I remember that they slept in the polling center (Maubisse's schoolhouse) on the floor with no blankets, using deconstructed cardboard voting booths as mats. I remember leaving them there when we went home to dinner and a bed at Gaspar's because we were forbidden by our mandate to stay with them through the night. I remember walking up to the school at sunrise the next morning as we'd promised, to see if all was ok, and finding everyone across the road in the church for morning mass. I remember the terror still sharp in their faces as mass finished and they dragged along on tired-of-it feet back to their refuge in the school. And there were the folks who wound their way round to us between the mass and their refuge and shook our hands because they mistakenly thought that we had made the vote possible when it was them—the East Timorese—coming out to vote in mind-blowing numbers that made the vote. And there was the old woman who came up to us and shook our hands and kissed them and said, "friend."

I remember my friend Meta who shouted my name and came up to hug me when our team walked through the gates of IFET's Dili HQ after we'd evacuated Maubisse. Meta who was so proud to introduce me to his father. Meta my friend, who is running; who went to hide in the hills. Who I hope with every part of me is still alive, as I do Gaspar and his family and Father Mateus and the brothers and refugees in his church . . . and here I feel like I'm being selective and truly I wish that no Timorese were being slaughtered. But that now is an impossibility, estimates put the death toll in the high thousands or tens of thousands and the longer that we U.N. member states stall, the greater the number of East Timorese being massacred or forcibly "relocated" and the greater our collective shame.

When I originally drafted this letter for a few small U.S. newsweeklies, Indonesia had just conceded to allow a U.N. peacekeeping force into East Timor. I, among others, did not trust them. They would stall for time. And in that time there would be more slaughter. It is a week later now and much of this U.N. force is in the region, working with

an Indonesian military which continues to be uncooperative and brutal. Airdropped food is providing a minimum of sustenance for hundreds of thousands of refugees slowly starving in the Timorese hills, but the Jakarta-driven massacre continues as stories of mass-killings during the past few weeks come forward through eye-witness testimonials, as refugees forced into West Timorese camps are terrorized and murdered, and as the militia masses its Indonesian-military-backed forces along the western side of the Indonesia-East Timor border (as it now can be called). The Australian media reported that Interfet peacekeepers chased three TNI trucks (TNI being the acronym of the Indonesian military) through the streets of Dili Thursday, TNI trucks which were loaded with troops who fired three bursts from automatic rifles, trying hard to shatter any remnants of the peace which they were tasked with restoring.

Originally this letter was a call to action. Now, I hope, it acts as a call to continue that action. Unflinching vigilance and continued humanitarian action will be absolute necessities in the coming months, not only in East Timor but also for the hundreds of thousands of refugees forced into military convoys or onto boats headed to West Timor and other Indonesian islands. (Recent reports speak of a near total absence of males between the ages of 16 and 50 in the refugee camps and convoys.) And at home in the United States there are bills in both the House and the Senate (HR. 2809 and S. 1568) which would 'lock-in' the temporary bans on military and financial assistance to Indonesia. These bills also set conditions (including a safe and secure environment in East Timor, full humanitarian assistance, and the return of all refugees), which Indonesia must meet before this assistance can resume. I write this letter in the hopes that you will read it and be incensed, that you will read it and want to pressure our government to act, to continue to act. The United States government carries much of the blame for this slaughter in East Timor, as they have sat by for twenty-four years while Indonesia—third largest global market for U.S. weapons and consumer goods; home to a bargain-priced, easily-exploitable labor force; and our viciously anti-Communist Cold War ally—carried out its sadistic policies against the East Timorese population, as they (the U.S. government—and we citizens by extension) turned a blind-eye and an approving nod to the invasion. I write this letter as a plea, an agonized cry from across the Pacific, to ask that you pressure our representatives in Washington to act. Please pressure them to act.

OPPOSITION TO CONFERENCE
AGREEMENT ON H.R. 2488

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I have heard my friends on the Republican side talk about how their budget sets aside \$2 trillion of the \$3 trillion projected surplus for debt reduction. While this certainly sounds appealing to those of us who have been talking about the importance of paying off the national debt, the facts just don't match the rhetoric.

My Republican friends neglect to point out that they are double-counting the Social Security surplus in order to claim that they are reducing the debt. This body has overwhelm-

ingly voted to exclude Social Security surpluses from budget calculations. These surpluses are essential to meet future obligations to Social Security. Every Member of this body, Republican and Democrat alike, have said that Social Security surpluses should only be used for Social Security, and should not be counted for any other purposes. But despite all of the rhetoric about Social Security lockboxes and taking Social Security off-budget, some folks on the other side of the aisle keep counting the Social Security surpluses when it suits their purposes.

Using the Social Security surplus to reduce debt held by the public simply offsets the increased debt held by the Social Security trust fund. If all we do is save the Social Security surplus, we won't reduce the total national debt by one dime, and we will have done nothing to reduce the burden we leave to our children and grandchildren. In fact, despite all of the rhetoric from the other side of the aisle about saving money for debt reduction, the total national debt will increase by \$200 billion over the next five years under the Republican budget.

The truth is, they don't want the American people to know the consequences of their massive tax cuts. They don't want them to find out that, if we want to be fiscally responsible and stay within the spending caps we agreed to in the 1997 budget, passing their tax cut bill will require a 38% reduction in spending on important programs—programs like FEMA, class size reduction, and law enforcement. Both parties agree that defense spending needs to increase if we want to preserve military readiness, but if the Republicans pass their tax cuts, our military will suffer as well. While these important programs that benefit all Americans will have to be cut, two-thirds of the tax cut will benefit only those people who fall in the top income tax bracket.

The fiscal irresponsibility does not stop there. The new trick in Republican accounting books is the "emergency" spending designation being used to bypass the spending caps. They have even resorted to calling the 2000 census an "emergency"—an outrageous claim considering that the Constitution requires a census every ten years! This "emergency" spending comes straight out of the "projected" surplus Republicans want to use to finance their tax cut.

This creative accounting is unacceptable. I am a strong advocate of a sound budget and fiscally responsible tax cuts, but the best tax cut we can give the American people is a promise we will first pay down the national debt by setting aside some of the true surplus—the non-Social Security surplus. The Blue Dogs have put forward a proposal that would lock up half of the true budget surplus to pay down the national debt. This approach will truly reduce the burden on future generations.

I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation. The Blue Dog's Debt Reduction Lockbox bill would save 100% of the Social Security surplus by requiring that the budget be balanced excluding the Social Security surplus. It also helps ensure a fiscally responsible budget by establishing a point of order against any budget resolution that contains an on-budget deficit or any legislation that would result in an on-budget deficit and would prohibit OMB, CBO and other federal government entities from including the Social

Security trust fund as part of budget surplus or deficit calculations.

While the Republican tax cut bill's debt reduction provisions are merely a rhetorical gesture at best, the Blue Dog bill delivers on debt reduction. It places 50% of the projected on-budget surplus over the next five years in a Debt Reduction Lockbox, away from those who would squander it on irresponsible tax cuts.

The Blue Dog bill also delivers on our promise to save Social Security and Medicare by reserving the Debt Reduction Dividend—the savings from lower interest payments on the debt resulting from its reduction—for these two programs. Seventy-five percent of these savings would be reserved for Social Security reform and 25% for Medicare reform.

Mr. Speaker, the fundamental tenet of the Blue Dog proposal—debt reduction—has been recklessly omitted from the Republican bill. Our primary goal as we debate how to divide the projected budget surplus should be to maintain the strong and growing economy that has benefitted millions of Americans. Irresponsible tax cuts, however, are not the means to achieving this end. Using that simple objective as our guide, it is clear that the best course of action this body could take is to use the budget surpluses to start paying off the \$5.6 trillion national debt. Reducing the national debt is clearly the best long-term strategy for the U.S. economy.

Economists from across the political spectrum agree that using the surplus to reduce the debt will stimulate economic growth by increasing national savings and boosting domestic investment. Paying down our debt will reduce the tremendous drain that the federal government has placed on the economy by running up a huge national debt. Quite simply, reducing the federal government's \$5.6 trillion national debt takes money that is currently tied up in debt and puts it back into the private sector where it can be invested in plants, equipment and other investments that create jobs and economic output.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman, Alan Greenspan, has repeatedly advised Congress that the most important action we could take to maintain a strong and growing economy is to pay down the national debt. Earlier this year, Chairman Greenspan testified before the Ways and Means Committee that debt reduction is a much better use of surpluses than are tax cuts, stating:

The advantages that I perceive that would accrue to this economy from a significant decline in the outstanding debt to the public and its virtuous cycle on the total budget process is a value which I think far exceeds anything else we could do with the money.

We should follow Chairman Greenspan's advice by making debt reduction the highest priority for any budget surplus.

There has been a lot of discussion here in Washington about a "grand bargain" on the budget that would divide the surplus between tax cuts and higher spending. Our constituents are giving a very different message. I would encourage my colleagues to ignore this inside the beltway speculation, and listen to the American public. Our constituents are telling us to meet our obligations by paying down the national debt.

The folks I represent understand that the conservative thing to do when you have some extra resources is to pay your debts first. They don't understand how we can be talking about grand plans to divide up the

budget surplus when we have a \$5.6 trillion national debt. They want us to use this opportunity to pay down our debt.

We hear a lot of talk about "giving the American people their money back". I would remind my colleagues that it is the American people who owe the \$5.6 trillion national debt we have run up. If we are truly interested in giving the surpluses back to the American people, we should start by paying off the debt we have run up on their credit card.

I would suggest that the best tax cut we could provide for all Americans, and the best thing that we can do to ensure that taxes remain low for our children and grandchildren, is to start paying down our \$5.6 trillion national debt. Reducing our national debt will provide a tax cut for millions of Americans by restraining interest rates. Lower interest rates will put money in the pockets of working men and women by saving them money on variable mortgages, new mortgages, auto loans, credit card payments, and other debts. The reduction in interest rates we have had as a result of the fiscal discipline over the last few years has put at least \$35 billion into the hands of homeowners through lower mortgage payments. Continuing this fiscal discipline and paying down the debt is the best way to keep putting money into the hands of middle class Americans.

Just as importantly, reducing the national debt will protect future generations from increasing tax burdens to pay for the debts that we have incurred. Today, more than twenty five percent of all individual income taxes go to paying interest on our national debt. The amount of income taxes the government will have to collect just to pay the interest on the debt will continue to increase unless we take action now to pay down the national debt.

Every dollar of lower debt saves more than one dollar for future generations. These savings that can be used for tax cuts, covering the costs of the baby boomers retirement without tax increases or meeting other needs. We should give future generations the flexibility to deal with the challenges they will face, instead of forcing them to pay higher taxes just to pay for the debt we incurred with our consumption today.

I urge my colleagues to vote against reckless spending by voting against the Republican tax cuts—but let's not stop there. Join me in supporting the Blue Dog Debt Reduction Lockbox bill and let's eliminate our debt.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL UNITY DAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the designation of a "National Unity Day" to celebrate our country's diversity as well as promote the need for harmony within our nation.

Presently, my good friend Paul Callens and several of his colleagues are participating in the Unity Walk, a 3,200-mile trek across the United States. This Unity Walk is a means for sending the message to all Americans that we must create racial harmony within our communities at both the local and national levels. The walkers also hope to interest community leaders and local government officials in celebrating a National Unity Day.

Their voyage is scheduled to end in San Francisco on October 10, 1999. The participants hope to engage fellow Americans in

worthwhile discussion about the issue of racial harmony. Their ultimate goal, however, is the designation of a National Unity Day commemorating the importance of indivisibility among our diverse group of citizens here in the United States. This would also include an annual National Unity Day celebration to recognize National Unity Day on the second Sunday of October every year.

In our land of great freedom, we must not tolerate racism or prejudice of any kind. We must work together for peace and unity among the citizens of the United States to whom liberty and justice are natural human rights. The Unity Walkers have asked communities to examine their attitudes toward racial differences and make strides toward ending those racial divisions that threaten the soul of our nation.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in support of the establishment of National Unity Day, as we work to celebrate the differences among us.

CONGRATULATING LION RAISINS GRAND OPENING

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lion Raisins on the Grand Opening of California's newest raisin processing facility. After four generations, Lion Raisins still strives to deliver quality and service beyond their customer's expectations.

In 1903, Alex Lion established one of the first raisin packing facilities in Fresno, California, named Lion Raisins. He packed raisins for the first time, probably Muscats since that was the principal variety at that time. He shipped them by train to Chicago. The price of raisins dropped while they were in route, causing the buyers to reject them. Alex went by train to Chicago and spent several weeks there selling raisins on the streets. His packing career was somewhat sporadic after that, according to his grandson, Al Lion. The first actual packing was done on the farm that the family owned at Kings and Highland. Later they had a packing house on "H" Street, and then in 1923 or 1926 the packinghouse was built at the present site at California Avenue and Second Street.

During this time Alfred Lion, Alex's son, was living in San Francisco and was involved in the selling there. His father called him back to take an active part in the packing operation. He took over the management after his father's death in 1963.

Brother's Herb and Al entered the family business; Herb in 1947 and Al in 1957. For years, until Herb's retirement in 1991, the brothers shared responsibilities, with one managing the business end of the operation, and the other the packing. They alternated responsibilities every year. In recent years, Al's sons, Larry and John, were active in the business for a time. Larry worked from 1970 to 1981. John worked in the plant from 1974–1975. Herb Lion died in July 1995.

Four generations later, Lion Raisins is the largest family owned and operated raisin processing facility in California. For nearly 100 years, the Lion family has been committed to the raisin industry and a vital part of the San Joaquin Valley. Today Lion Raisins processes nearly 50,000 tons of California raisins annually, and distributes them around the world

under the Lion brand label. This has led them to be the largest independent raisin packing company in the area in terms of tonnage packed and sold.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to congratulate Lion Raisins in the grand opening of California's newest raisin processing facility. Lion Raisins has been a model business, after four generations of delivering quality and service beyond customer expectations; through commitment, pride, and integrity. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Lion Raisins many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN A. PICKENS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. Allen A. Pickens on his very distinguished career and well-earned retirement. Through the years, Al has made great contributions toward the development and economic stability of the island of Guam. He played a significant role in the transformation of Guam from an economy dependent on Federal and local government to its present state as a self-sufficient economic center of the Western Pacific.

As a teenager growing up in Des Moines, Iowa, Al dreamt of being an accountant. In pursuit of this objective, he attended the Central College in Iowa for a year on a basketball scholarship. Forced to drop-out due to an illness, he later enlisted in the United States Air Force. After four years of involvement with Air Force security operations in West Pakistan and Okinawa, Al was able to return to school. He spent the next 3 years finishing his studies at Drake University.

Upon graduation, Al was offered a job in Hawaii with the accounting firm Peat Marwick. It was in Hawaii that he met and married his wife Dianne, who was an office manager and accountant for the state's Catholic Social Services.

Al first came to Guam in 1962, during the island's introduction to international commerce which was made possible by President Kennedy's withdrawal of the island's security clearance requirements. After several years of working and traveling between Guam and Hawaii, Al was assigned to manage the Peat Marwick Guam office in 1969. Less than six years later, he became the youngest partner in the firm. As resident manager and, later, partner, Al guided KPMG Peat Marwick toward great success as a premier accounting firm on Guam. Since the 1994 merger of KPMG Peat Marwick with Deloitte & Touche LLP, Al served as managing partner. As one of the first accountants on the island, he was considered mentor to hundreds of young accountants who have gone through his firm. A large number of his former apprentices now run Guam's top companies.

In time, Al also gained a solid reputation as a business consultant. Local businessmen have come to rely upon his professional advice. Several island businesses would never

make a major move without first consulting him. They have come to realize that the value of his advice is worth far beyond any fee that he may charge.

A confessed workaholic, Al usually works 7 days a week taking time off only on Christmas, Thanksgiving and an annual 2-week vacation. Not one to miss a day of work, Al claims never to have had a sick day. He is usually at his desk by seven in the morning.

Although he usually works eleven-hour days, Al is usually home at around six in the evening for his daily run. Begun in 1976 to cure chronic headaches and chest pains, Al's preoccupation with this activity led to the formation of the Guam Running Club. On behalf of the club, he has organized marathons—participating in more than a dozen. Nowadays, he usually participates in 10K's and hill climbs.

Always one to foster community involvement, Al has been a pervading presence in the island's many civic and community organizations. Among others, Al served as charter president of the Guam Society of Certified Public Accountants, member and charter vice-president of the Guam Chapter of the Association of Governmental Accountants, chairman and director of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, charter chairman of the Guam Business Hall of Fame and president of the Rotary Club of Guam, the Air Force Association and the Navy League of Guam. He is also president emeritus of the St. John's School Board of Trustees and founder of Junior Achievement of Guam. For his achievements he merited mention in the 1988 Who's Who in America and in the 1984/1985 Who's Who in the West.

The distinguished professional career and expansive community involvement of Allen A. Pickens has endeared him to the people of Guam. I congratulate him for his outstanding achievements and commend him for all the good work he has done for the local community. I wish him and his family the best for his retirement. On behalf of the people of Guam, a heartfelt "Si Yu'os Ma'ase" to a distinguished business and community leader.

TRIBUTE TO FELIX "TITO" TRINIDAD

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Felix "Tito" Trinidad, an outstanding Puerto Rican athlete, and a very successful boxer. On Saturday, September 18, 1999, in the dramatic end to the welterweight showdown nicknamed the "Fight of the Millennium," Trinidad scored with his punishing right hand and won by a majority decision, taking the WBC title from a very talented and worthy opponent, Mr. Oscar De La Hoya. The result was a joyful outpouring in Puerto Rico and in my Bronx Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday government workers in Puerto Rico were given the day off to welcome Trinidad, and entire families turned out, with many children kept from school to celebrate. Pounding his heart with this fist,

Trinidad stood atop a white truck wearing a floppy hat that read in English "Peace for Vieques."

The success added the WBC welterweight title to the IBF crown Trinidad already holds. Trinidad has now won 36 consecutive professional fights. He has held a world title since 1993, making him the longest-serving currently active world boxing champion.

Through his dedication, discipline, and success in boxing, Mr. Trinidad has served as a role model for millions of youngsters in the United States and Puerto Rico who dream of succeeding, like him, in the world of sports.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Felix "Tito" Trinidad for his contributions and dedication to boxing, as well as for serving as a role model for the youth of Puerto Rico and America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to unforeseen business in my district, I was unable to be present for seven votes regarding H.R. 2684, VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations for FY 2000. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall vote 390: "nay"; rollcall vote 391: "yea"; rollcall vote 392: "nay"; rollcall vote 393: "nay"; rollcall vote 394: "nay"; rollcall vote 395: "yea"; rollcall vote 396: "nay".

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEXINGTON CEMETERY

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of the Lexington Cemetery. "The Athens of the West", as Lexington was once known, serves as a resting place for such notable residents as Senator Henry Clay and General John Hunt Morgan. This cemetery has a national reputation as being one of the most beautiful in America and the people of the sixth district of Kentucky are very proud of it.

The Lexington Cemetery, which spans over 170 acres, serves as a memorial to the lives of folks who meant so much to so many people. These grounds tell a story of those who walked the hills of central Kentucky as far back as 1849. However, these grounds also tell us a story of those who came over the years to grieve the loss of a loved one, of the memories they left behind and many contributions made throughout their lives.

It represents the cord that binds families to their roots and connects them to past generations. For 150 years, the Lexington Cemetery has honored those lives whose contribution and value will always be remembered. These

hallowed grounds offer a place to preserve the memories of those who have passed on but left behind many who will always mourn their loss.

So, as folks from throughout central Kentucky gather on Saturday to commemorate the beginning of the historical and sacred grounds of Lexington Cemetery, they will experience the beauty this special resting place has offered so many families for the past 150 years. It is an honor to stand before the United States House of Representatives to acknowledge this historic day for the Lexington Cemetery.

THE HILLSDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN MATEO CELEBRATES ITS FIRST FIFTY YEARS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, the Hillsdale United Methodist Church of San Mateo, California, will celebrate fifty years of ministry to the San Mateo community. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hillsdale United Methodist Church for its outstanding record of service to the people of my congressional district for the past half century.

The Hillsdale United Methodist Church's mission is to "celebrate God's gifts as an accepting community, inviting all people to explore and live out new beginnings and dimensions in faith." The church's devotion to this credo of acceptance is clearly demonstrated by its welcoming attitude and its numerous and active community outreach programs. Some of these many programs include a Tutor Learning Center, the sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack 27, YANSY (Young and Not So Young—an adult social group with monthly meetings and activities), and Samaritan House, which collects food and monthly donations for low-income residents in the area.

The Hillsdale United Methodist Church has also sponsored two refugee families and, as a service to the immigrant community, holds a Tongan language service every Sunday afternoon. In fact, five years after Hillsdale United Methodist welcomed its first Tongan members in 1966, the Tongan Methodist Church began in the United States at the Hillsdale United Methodist building. In 1993 the Fale Hufanga United Methodist Church began in San Carlos. Hillsdale United Methodist Church's Tongan members are still active in this church and recently resumed a Tongan language service.

I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations for the manifold achievements of the Hillsdale United Methodist Church over the last 50 years. The church's generosity and exemplary civic virtues have favorably impacted the lives of innumerable people in my congressional district—men and women, children and adults, American citizens as well as immigrants and refugees. I would like to express my personal gratitude for the outstanding work of the church, and I anticipate with great pleasure all that the church will accomplish in the new millennium.

RECOGNITION OF FAIRFAX COUNTY URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, and I are honored to extend our deepest admiration and sincere thanks to the 92 members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team in their courageous response mission to help the people in Toulou, Taiwan, following the massive earthquake there on September 20.

Fairfax County is one of the few localities in our country which has trained and authorized a search and rescue team that can be deployed at a moment's notice to deal with crisis situations anywhere in the world. Less than an hour after the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance activated the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team to assist in the international effort, the team was mobilized and ready for deployment; ready to leave their families, friends and loved ones. We understand that this was the team's ninth mission—nine times they have left their families and homes to answer the "International 911" call.

What's most remarkable is that the firefighters on this team volunteered to be part of this specially trained unit, which is on the front lines, working round the clock, going into perilous situations—whether natural disasters or terrorist-inspired—driven by self-sacrifice to help save lives. Each member of this team has shown extraordinary heroism.

We are very proud of each and every member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team. They truly are heroes and deserve to be recognized.

The U.S. Congress and all of America salute the following members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team:

Chris Bastin, James Bernanzani, William Bertone, Greg Bunch, David Conrad, Sean Evans, Thomas Feehan, Tom Griffin, Mark Guditus, Andrew Hubert, Matt Nacy, Clyde Pittard, Mark Plunkett, Scott Smith, Rex Strickland, Jim Walsh, Kent Watts, Robert Zoldos, Daniel Bickham, Edward Brinkley, Clyde Buchanan, John Chabal, James Chinn, Kevin Dabney, Kurt Hoffman, Joseph Kaleda, Joseph Knerr, Randall Leatherman, Evan Lewis, Craig Luecke, Glenn Mason, Joe Meritt, Gary Morin, Gery Morrison, Dewey Perks, Michael Regan, Michael Tamillow, David Taylor, James Tolson, Jack Walmer, Jerome Williams, Barry Anderson, Donald Booth, Gary Bunch, Carlton Burkhammer, Brian Cloyd, Michael Davis, Jeffrey Donaldson, Michael Istvan, Mark Lucas, John Mayers, Rich McKinney, Wayne Reedy, Bill Reedy, Michael Reilly, Charles Ruble, Mike Stone, Ruben Almaguer, Marilyn Arwe, Joe Barbera, William Barker, Tony Beale, Bill Berger, Jack Brown, Jennifer Brown, Mike Canfield, Paul Carlin, Steve Catlin, Carol Chan, Tom Cole, Robert Dube, Garrett Dyer, Dr. French, Sonja Heritage, Brooke Holt, Gerald Jaskulski, Mike Keeler, Anthony MacIntyre, Paul Majorowitz, Chuck Mills, Susan Mingle, Richard Owens, Dean

Sherick, Earl Shuggart, Dallas Slem, Jim Strickland, Nate Smith, Lorenzo Thrower, Dean Tills, Steve Weissman, Steve Willey, John Tung.

HONORING OLIVER BIRCKHEAD ON RECEIVING THE FIRST ANNUAL CINCINNATI BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION AWARD

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Oliver Birkhead, who will receive the First Annual Cincinnati Brain Injury Association Award. Mr. Birkhead's community leadership on children's issues will be recognized on October 1, 1999, at a dinner that will benefit Cincinnati's Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of acquired disability and death among children. Each year, more than one million children sustain brain injuries, most commonly from sports injuries caused by bicycling, skiing, diving, or playground falls. Brain injury is also the most common cause of mortality in young adult Americans under the age of 45. Depending on the type and severity of the injury, rehabilitation may restore crucial skills that are necessary to lead a more normal life.

Oliver Birkhead is well known for his distinguished career in banking. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, and graduated from Nichols College in Dudley, New Hampshire and Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. Ollie entered the banking business in 1937 with the Peoples National Bank and Trust Company in White Plains, New York. In 1942, Ollie entered the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he served until 1946. He then resumed his career in banking, and was appointed Assistant National Bank Examiner in the Second District of New York by the Comptroller of the Currency. Ollie joined Chemical Bank in 1948, and in 1951, he joined the Central Trust Company, now PNC Bank, in Cincinnati. Ollie rose to the position of Vice Chairman and Director of PNC until he retired from the Board in 1989. He has served as a Board Member of the Union Central Life Insurance Company; the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company (now CInergy); the Manhattan Life Insurance Company; and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

A committed community leader, Ollie has served on the Executive Committee of the Cincinnati Art Museum; as Vice Chairman, Advisory Board member, and Life Member of the Salvation Army; and as a board member of the Cincinnati Council of World Affairs, the Boys Club of Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Association of the Blind. He also served in leadership positions with United Way of Cincinnati. Along the way, Ollie made many friends, and I am proud to be among them.

We congratulate Ollie Birkhead as he receives this prestigious honor.

HONORING JOANN WARD

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to JoAnn Ward, executive director of the Fond du Lac, Wisconsin Convention and Visitors Bureau, who will retire this Friday, October 1 after more than 22 years of service.

As Bureau executive, JoAnn's job has included marketing the city of Fond du Lac and its environs as a desirable tourist and convention destination. It is a task she has accomplished so well, and with such creativity and leadership, that it can be said with no exaggeration that her stamp has left a lasting imprint on the character of the community.

The considerable economic impact from tourism and convention dollars on the Fond du Lac area during her tenure is a significant and tangible result of JoAnn Ward's efforts. But perhaps more telling than the bottom-line success story are the personal characteristics that engendered that success—JoAnn's gift for innovative ideas her keen sense of the public's tastes and preferences, and her amazing ability to enlist volunteers to share her vision and accomplish common goals.

Over 20 years ago, her imagination inspired the creation of Walleye Weekend, Fond du Lac's signature festival that draws hundreds of volunteers and tens of thousands of festival goers to the city's Lakeside Park each June. JoAnn has either originated or taken a lead role in developing and enhancing scores of other Fond du Lac area special events and festivals, including the annual Taste of Fond du Lac, the Fond du Lac Jazz Festival and the International Acrobatic Competition, which has been hosted by Fond du Lac the past 29 years.

She has built attractions centered around the natural beauty of the area and the unique assets of its residents, and has helped the many businesses that depend on conventions and tourism to capitalize on their strengths. A tireless worker and consummate promoter of both her community and the state of Wisconsin, JoAnn Ward has never accepted limits on her ability to try out new ideas or strive for new levels of achievement.

JoAnn's influence has extended beyond Fond du Lac to larger metropolitan areas and to national and international organizations. A recipient of the Wisconsin Tourism Federation's Award for Outstanding Contributions, she was appointed by Governor Tommy Thompson to the state's prestigious Sesqui-centennial Commission, which over a three-year period organized and oversaw planning for the huge, multifaceted 150th celebration of Wisconsin's statehood in 1998.

In 1995, she served as the Sixth District delegate to the White House Conference on Tourism. And in 1997, JoAnn was inducted into the International Festival & Events Association's Hall of Fame.

But it is at home where her impact has been most keenly felt. JoAnn has succeeded in making my hometown of Fond du Lac not only a desirable travel destination but a better place to live. It is testament to her stature in the Fond du Lac community that her retirement announcement was not only front page news, but the main headline in the daily newspaper. A later editorial stated, "It will take a

rare combination of enterprise, persuasiveness, grace and good humor to build a successor for this woman who has done so much for Fond du Lac."

I am proud to call attention to the many accomplishments of my friend, JoAnn Ward, and join the members of the Fond du Lac community in honoring her as she continues to pursue new horizons.

HEALTH RESEARCH AND QUALITY ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2506) to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research:

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Chairman, the grant program included in Representative JOHNSON's amendment has broad bipartisan support of over 190 Members of the House, including the chairs, ranking members and other members of subcommittees and committees of jurisdiction—the Commerce, Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees. I am a proud cosponsor of Representative JOHNSON's related legislation and I look forward to the passage of this amendment.

Children's Hospitals across this Nation, especially Children's Hospital and Health Center in San Diego, are critical to the future of pediatric medicine and therefore to the future health of all children. Because of the inequity in our current federal GME funding structure, our Children's Hospitals are disadvantaged

when compared to other teaching facilities. Because GME funds are based on the amount of Medicare patients in each hospital, and Children's Hospitals rarely treat patients that use Medicare funds as payments, these hospitals are treated unfairly compared to other teaching schools that receive funds allocated through the Medicare Program.

The grant program in this amendment would provide \$280 million in FY 2000 and \$285 million in FY 2001. Since comprehensive GME reform will take more time to develop, this amendment would provide immediate financial assistance through a capped, time-limited authorization of appropriations.

Children's Hospital and Health Center in San Diego is the region's only pediatric medical center, a 220-bed hospital offering comprehensive programs in diagnosis and treatment, research, rehabilitation, medical education, outcomes and community outreach and education. Founded in 1954 to treat polio victims, Children's has continually grown in direct response to the needs of the communities it serves through the San Diego and Imperial regions.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with Representative JOHNSON and my other colleagues on this issue because the education and training programs of these institutions are critical to the future of pediatric medicine and the health of our children.

DR. KATHLEEN C. CRATES NAMED PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize my former Findlay High School

classmate, Dr. Kathleen C. Crates, upon her selection as Ohio's 1999 Principal of the Year.

This award, sponsored by MetLife and given by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), acknowledges the achievements of Ohio's most outstanding secondary school principal. Candidates were judged based on their relationships with teaching staff, their ability to promote positive change, and their use of creativity in solving problems. In announcing Dr. Crates's selection, Ohio NASSP Director Steven Raines cited her outstanding leadership skills and her creation of a caring environment at Findlay High School, a facility that serves more than 2,100 students.

Before she was named principal of our alma mater in 1995, Dr. Crates served as principal of Findlay's Donnell Middle School, assistant principal at Findlay High School, and as a teacher of learning disabled students. She completed her undergraduate work at Findlay College, now the University of Findlay, in 1968, and earned her master's and doctoral degrees from nearby Bowling Green State University. Dr. Crates has supplemented her skills through seminars at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and the University of California.

In her honor, March 12, 1999, was designated "Dr. Kathleen Crates Day" by the students and staff of Findlay High School. Last month, Dr. Crates was further honored as one of six Ohio educators chosen to receive Ohio's first ever Pioneer in Education Awards, presented by the Ohio Department of Education.

Dr. Crates will now compete on the national level with 49 of her peers, as they vie for the title of National Principal of the year.

I am proud to join the chorus of voices saluting Kathy's quarter century of dedication to the young people of Findlay. I congratulate her on a job well done, and wish her the best of luck in the national competition and in all her future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 30, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 5

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's Blue Ribbon Panel findings on methyl tertiary-butyl ether.

SD-406

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Housing and Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S.1452, to modernize the requirements under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards of 1974 and to establish a balanced consensus process for the development, revision, and interpretation of Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S.758, to establish legal standards and procedures for the fair, prompt, inexpensive, and efficient resolution of personal injury claims arising out of asbestos exposure.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S.1608, to provide annual payments to the States and counties from National Forest System lands managed by the Forest Service, and the revested Oregon and California Railroad and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands managed predominately by the Bureau of Land Management, for use by the counties in which the lands are situated for the benefit of the public schools, roads, emergency and other public purposes; to encourage and provide new mechanism for cooperation between counties and the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to make necessary investments in federal lands, and reaffirm the positive connection

between Federal Lands counties and Federal Lands; and for other purposes.
SD-366

Foreign Relations
African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine development assistance to Africa and the implementation of United States foreign policy.

SD-419

OCTOBER 6

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to review public policy related to biotechnology, focusing on domestic approval process, benefits of biotechnology and an emphasis on challenges facing farmers to segregation of product.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

Judiciary
Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine fiber terrorism on computer infrastructure.

SD-226

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on the nomination of Skila Harris, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2005; the nomination of Glenn L. McCullough, Jr., of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority; and the nomination of Gerald V. Poje, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

SD-406

3 p.m.

Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-485

OCTOBER 7

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to review public policy related to biotechnology, focusing on domestic approval process, benefits of biotechnology and an emphasis on challenges facing farmers to segregation of product.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

Judiciary
To resume hearings to examine certain clemency issues for members of the Armed Forces of National Liberation.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S.1183, to direct the Secretary of Energy to convey to the city of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, the former site of the NIPER facility of the Department of Energy; and S.397, to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish a multiagency program in support of the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative to promote energy efficient, environmentally sound economic development along the border with Mexico through the research, development, and use of new materials.

SD-366

OCTOBER 12

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S.167, to extend the authorization for the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council and to authorize construction and operation of a visitor center for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, New York and Pennsylvania; S.311, to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs; S.497, to designate Great Kills Park in the Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills"; H.R.592, to redesignate Great Kills Park in the Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills"; S.919, to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to expand the boundaries of the Corridor; H.R.1619, to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to expand the boundaries of the Corridor; S.1296, to designate portions of the lower Delaware River and associated tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; S.1366, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate a visitor center for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreation River on land owned by the New York State; and S.1569, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

SD-366

OCTOBER 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the force structure impacts on fleet and strategic lift operations.

SR-222

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S.1507, to authorize the integration and consolidation of alcohol and substance programs and services provided by Indian tribal governments.

SR-485

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings on numerous tax treaties and protocols.

SD-419

OCTOBER 19

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S.1365, to amend the National Preservation Act of 1966 to extend the authorization for the Historic Preservation Fund and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; S.1434, to amend the National Historic Preservation Act to reauthorize that Act; and H.R.834, to extend the authorization for the National Historic Preservation Fund.

SD-366

OCTOBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the use of
performance enhancing drugs in Olym-
pic competition.

SR-253

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on proposed legislation
authorizing funds for elementary and
secondary education assistance, focus-
ing on Indian educational programs.

SR-285

OCTOBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the imple-
mentation of the Transportation Eq-
uity Act in the 21st Century, focusing
on Indian reservation roads.

SR-485